

Louisiana Board of Pharmacy

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BULLETIN No. 05-04

To: Pharmacists, Interns, Technicians, Candidates, & Pharmacies

From: Malcolm Broussard

Date: August 15, 2005

Re: Recent Changes in Pharmacy and Related Laws

During the Regular Session of the 2005 Louisiana Legislature, several bills were adopted that impact pharmacy practice. All of the measures listed below are effective today, except Act No. 488, which became effective July 1.

Act No. 6 (SB 265) expands the prescriptive authority of optometrists to include controlled substances in Schedules III, IV, and V. Prescriptions for narcotics may not exceed a 48-hour supply.

Act No. 387 (HB 753) allows the Board of Pharmacy to establish ratios for pharmacy technicians and candidates by regulation. The Board is currently in the process of revising the technician regulation. We will advise you when that process is complete.

Act No. 267 (HB 816) revises the fee structure for the Board of Pharmacy. The major changes include a \$25 increase in the renewal fee for pharmacists, a \$25 increase in the renewal fee for pharmacy permits, and a new \$25 application fee for pharmacy technician candidates.

Act No. 494 (SB 24) imposes new restrictions on the OTC sale of ephedrine, pseudoephedrine (PSE), and phenylpropanolamine. The law exempts all Rx sales of such products, as well as all PSE products in liquid, liquid capsule, and gel capsule form where PSE is not the only active ingredient. No purchaser may receive more than 3 packages or 9 grams in a 30-day period. The law gives pharmacies the option of using a written or electronic log using photo ID of purchasers, or in the alternative a video surveillance system. Finally, the law imposes restrictions on the quantity of covered products that may be displayed in publicly accessible shelving. We have prepared a Compliance Policy Guide, which is accessible in the 'Pharmacy' section at www.labp.com.

Act No. 488 (HB 749) requires the licensing of pain management clinics. Among other requirements, the law requires the Dept. of Health and Hospitals to write new regulations to restrict the quantity on all prescriptions written in such clinics to a 30-day supply, with no refills. We will advise you when that process is complete.

Finally, the Board of Nursing has advised us that their regulations now permit certain APRNs (nurse practitioners) to prescribe <u>any</u> controlled substances in Schedule II, provided their DEA registration authorizes it.